

Appl. No. 09/880,388
Amdt. Dated June 8, 2004
Reply to Office Action of March 9, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended) A disposable diaper comprising:

- a liquid-pervious topsheet;
- a liquid-impervious backsheet;
- a liquid-absorbent core disposed between said liquid-pervious topsheet and said liquid-impervious backsheet;
- a front waist region;
- a rear waist region;
- a crotch region extending between said front waist region and said rear waist region in a longitudinal direction of the diaper;
- wings formed on transversely opposite side portions of said rear waist region and extending outward in a circumferential direction intersecting said longitudinal direction, said wings having inner and outer surfaces and circumferentially outer side edges and circumferentially inner side regions; and

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fastener sections formed on said wings and extending outward in said circumferential direction said fastener sections having inner surfaces and a strip of male mechanical fasteners members formed on and extending from said inner surfaces,

said wings comprising a nonwoven fabric made of thermoplastic synthetic fibers,

a plurality of fine fusion spots being located on an exterior surface ~~formed on the inner surfaces~~ of the wings, at which fine fusion spots said fibers are fused together, said plurality of fine fusion spots being arranged so that there is a greater number of said fine fusion spots per unit area throughout ~~in~~ outer side regions of said wings that extend inward from inner transverse edges of the male mechanical fastener strips over a transverse distance that is at least equal to widths of the male mechanical fastener strips than in inner regions of said wings that extend inward from said outer side regions.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The diaper according to Claim 1, wherein said nonwoven fabric is stiffer in circumferentially outer side regions of said wings than in circumferentially inner side regions of said wings.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The diaper according to Claim 1, wherein said male mechanical fastener members are releasably engaged with said inward inner side surface regions of said wings.

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Claim 4 (previously presented): The diaper according to Claim 1, wherein said plurality of fine fusion spots comprise discrete spots that penetrate into the inner surface of the wings.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The diaper according to Claim 1, wherein the outer side regions of said wings extend inward from the male mechanical fastener strips over a transverse distance that is equal to widths of the male mechanical fastener strips.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The diaper according to Claim 1, wherein the outer side regions of said wings extend inward from the male mechanical fastener strips over a transverse distance that is greater than widths of the male mechanical fastener strips.